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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/51/L.21 and L.52

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.21) entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 20 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

"Noting with interest the role of the Secretary-General in encouraging all countries to engage in a constructive dialogue for advancing development and in facilitating their efforts in that regard,

"Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General,

"1. Reaffirms the need to encourage constructive dialogue and partnership based on mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development;

"2. Also reaffirms the need to place development at the centre of United Nations activities and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development through increased partnership among and between countries;

"3. Agrees to defer the holding of the first high-level dialogue for a period of two days to the early part of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States not later than February 1997 - on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, regional commissions, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

"4. Reaffirms the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and developing countries, including the dialogue being conducted between the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of Seven, as well as the consultations that take place with the participation of the developed countries and the Group of 77;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue, taking into consideration the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session for its consideration, recommendations on possible future themes for dialogue, including the issues of globalization, regional integration and new information technology;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in an agenda for development;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.52), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.52 (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Document relating to an agenda for development

6. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development (A/51/319) (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Noting with interest the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

Taking into consideration the note by the Secretary-General,[1]

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 19 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

2. Reaffirms the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and the developing countries;

3. Agrees to defer the holding of the high-level dialogue for a period of two days until the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States, bearing in mind General Assembly decision 50/490 of 16 September 1996 and taking into account the progress and results achieved in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications - and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue and an assessment of the ongoing efforts for its strengthening, such as the outcome of the discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, possible future themes for dialogue, and proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in the agenda for development;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the appropriate item, a sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Document relating to an agenda for development

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development.[2]

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[1] A/51/485.

[2] A/51/319.